

Youngtown Village♥Reporter

April 2023
youngtownaz.org

In the *Heart* of the Northwest Valley

TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN & AGUA FRIA RANCH HOA PRESENTS OUR 4th ANNUAL



JOIN US ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO NOON
LOCATED AT URIBE PARK

(AGUA FRIA RANCH PARKWAY NORTH OF OLIVE AVENUE)

AGE CATEGORIES: 3 & UNDER, 4-6, 7-9, AND 10-12
BRING A BASKET TO COLLECT EGGS, AND ENJOY
A FUN DAY WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Craft
Corner
News
Page 6



Grand
Opening
Page 6



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From the Mayor... Let's Build a New Business Model for Arizona Government

Proposition 200, passed by a strong majority of the people in 1972 and effective July 1, 1973, requires the state of Arizona to share 15% of income taxes collected with Arizona municipalities. These revenues along with 25% of state sales taxes collected, as per another ballot initiative passed in 1942, comprise a large portion of the fungible revenues available to operate Arizona cities and towns. In Youngtown, this stream of revenue is especially important since our residents do not pay a property tax to Youngtown.

Cities and towns are in the community building business. They provide the vast majority of 'bread and butter' services: fire and police, parks and recreation, libraries, street and road construction and maintenance--the very services which weave the fabric of community and touch people's lives on a daily basis. Virtually every city and town in Arizona, including



Youngtown, has been forced to make tough, often heart-breaking, decisions in order to balance their budgets over the years. As ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) monies run out, in the next two-to-three years, our fiscal challenges are likely to become severe once again.

In Youngtown, a small community of just under 8,000 people, we struggle daily to provide necessary and important services while balancing our budget. We have learned how to "...wear it out; use it up and make it do..." while doing more with less

and sometimes doing something with nothing. I say this not to complain but to demonstrate the daily reality of running a city or town while having to provide a high level of service and balance our budget--in spite of the condition of the economy.

We use a zero-based budget model requiring fresh review and justification of each and every line item, large and small, in each new budget building cycle. During the fiscal year, every expenditure is reviewed again and approved by the appropriate Department Head, the Town Manager

and the Mayor.

Over the past several years, we have analyzed and reanalyzed every proposed expenditure. Many have been reduced, frozen or eliminated. We have learned to more effectively compete for state and federal grant money used for infrastructure improvement and upgrading.

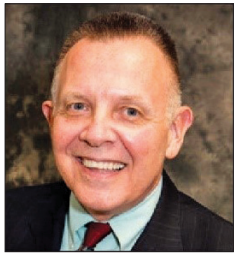
To increase efficiency, we have privatized some services like operation and maintenance in our parks and common areas. In 2011, we closed our police department and began contracting with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)

for our law enforcement.

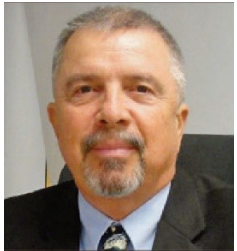
On balance, Youngtown does a pretty darn good job--delivering a high level of service while remaining one of only a handful of municipalities in Arizona which does not levy a property tax on its citizens: the tax burden on Youngtown residents remains one of the lightest in the state.

Arizona faces existential problems with water, transportation and education. I urge the Governor, the Legislature and the counties to reach out and partner with us, at the municipal level, to build a new business model for the way we, as governments, do business.

Rather than being adversaries, fighting over scarce resources, let's work together to further stabilize, diversify and sensibly grow our economy. Together, let's build a stronger, more vibrant Arizona where enhancement of quality of life is our common goal.



Michael LaVault
Mayor



Charles Vickers
Vice Mayor



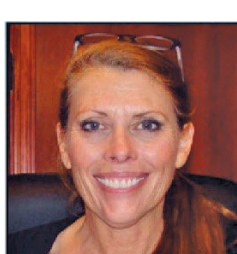
Margaret Chittenden
Councilmember



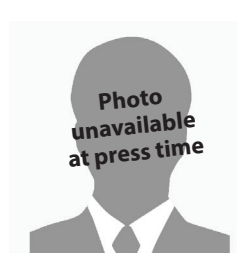
Karen Haney Duncan
Councilmember



Michael Francis
Councilmember



Susan Hout
Councilmember



Jim Starke
Councilmember

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

The right to accept or reject rests with the publication editor.



TOWN OF YOUNGTOWN

12030 North Clubhouse Square, Youngtown, AZ 85363

Mayor and Council: 623-933-8286 • Town Administration: 623-933-8286

Building Inspector: 623-933-8286 • Library: 623-974-3401 • Municipal Court: 623-972-8226

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Non-emergency: 602-876-1011 • Emergency: 9-1-1

Town Administrative Office hours Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. • www.youngtownaz.org

Hoarding and Fire



By: **Jim Fox**
Fire Marshal
Sun City Fire District

I recently was dispatched to investigate a fire in Sun City. The Fire Investigation is performed to determine the cause and origin of the fire, which was difficult in this case to determine because of the amount of material that was in the home. In addition, there were many cats in the home which had not been constantly cared for. There is a term for individuals who have a condition that makes it difficult for them to discard items that are no longer of use. The term is called Hoarding.

Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fills the home and prevents the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered and may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns. Hoarding can also cause infestation of unwanted guests such as bugs and vermin.

Hoarding conditions can pose additional or increased risk of fire.



- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are too close to, or stored on the stove or in the oven.

- Heating units (including water heaters) may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.

- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles of items. Pests could chew on electrical wires. Damaged electrical wires can start fires.

- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with

excess clutter are very dangerous.

- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire, or make it difficult for the occupant to navigate through the home, causing them to fall or injure themselves.

How Hoarding Impacts First Responders

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way. Imagine a home filled with smoke, so the firefighter tries to stay low, but cannot get through because of the clutter. With Turn-out gear and an air supply on their back, the firefighter needs room to move

around.

- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.

- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.

- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.

- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home.

- The condition makes it more difficult to enter the home to provide medical care or to remove the patient for medical transport.

- The clutter impedes

the search and rescue of people and pets.

- The condition complicates the job of the Fire Investigator to determine the cause of the fire.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury

- When talking with a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.

- Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits.

Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.

- Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.

- Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.

- The contact for the regional Hoarding Task Force is: azhoarding@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

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Youngtown Public Library

April 2023

April is a month of celebrations in the Library. We begin celebrating poetry in all of its many forms: classic poets like Robert Frost and Edgar Allan Poe, renowned children's poet Shel Silverstein, and President Biden's inaugural poet Amanda Gorman. Poetry has been a part of global cultures since prehistoric times evolving from oral epic tales to the various written forms we see today. The library celebrates the impact poetry has on us all. The Library finishes the month celebrating National Library Week. National Library Week celebrates the role and impact libraries have on their communities. Youngtown Library prides itself on being an integral part of our community and providing excellent services, programming and outreach to the community. Stop in to the library this month, check out a poetry book, and participate in the National Library Week celebrations.

APRIL IMPORTANT DATES

April National Poetry Month
April 4 Rather Be Reading Book Club at 10 a.m.
April 15 In-N-Out Burger Cover-to-Cover Spring Reading Program ends

April 20 Last day to turn in Cover-to-Cover reading logs
April 23-29 National Library Week
April 26 Eric Carle Storytime with Miss Mary

UPCOMING EVENTS

STORYTIME WITH MISS MARY: Join Miss Mary every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for a lively storytime including songs, rhymes, dancing, and (of course!) stories! All ages welcome!

RATHER BE READING BOOK CLUB: The Rather Be Reading Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 4 at 10 a.m. in the Library. April is National Poetry Month. Read your favorite poem, poet, or poetry collections and share it with the group. For more information contact Mary Vass, Library Manager at 623-974-3401.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK: April 23 - April 29 is National Library Week. Join us for special activities all week long.

The Youngtown Public Library offers many services, including:

- **FREE Book and DVD checkout** (with a Youngtown Library card)
- **FREE WI-FI**
- **FREE use of 6 Public Computers**
- **FREE Tax and Legal Forms**
- **FREE faxes (with a Youngtown Library card) – 10-page limit**
- **Printing/Copies \$.15 each**

LOCATION

The Youngtown Library and the Youngtown Historical Museum are located in Town Square, between Alabama and Youngtown Avenues, just west of 112th Avenue. For additional information about the Library or the history of Youngtown, call (623) 974-3401 and speak with Mary Vass, Library/Museum Manager.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday – Sunday: Closed

Clubs and Organizations

AARP Board

MEET: 3rd Tuesday of the month 4:30 p.m.
Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

AARP CHAPTER 1

MEET: 1st Friday of the month 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Jay Lickus – 623-734-5438

CRAFT CORNER

MEET: Every Monday 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Betty Trolen – 623-974-9130

AGUA FRIA RANCH HOA

MEET: 2nd Wednesday of the month 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
OFF: August
Ogden & Company/Jackie Monty 623-628-4708

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 997

MEET: 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Clubhouse and off site other Thursdays
azgstroop997@gmail.com

All clubs meet in the Clubhouse unless otherwise noted.

YOUNGTOWN CITIZENS' DOG PARK

MEET: 3rd Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m. to noon
OFF: June, July and August
Margaret Chittenden – 480-861-1576

YOUNGTOWN ART COMMISSION

MEET: 4th Wednesday of the month 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
OFF: June, July and August • Val Wilson – 623-810-3137

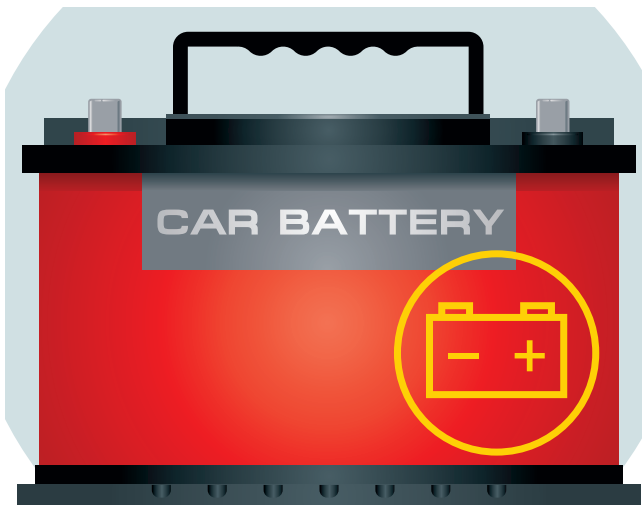
YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY FUND

MEET: 3rd Wednesday of the month 5:30 p.m.
Madelon Jeffreys – 623-977-4661

Household Hazardous Waste

The Town will hold a household hazardous waste pick up event at no cost to Town residents. If you need household hazardous waste picked up from your residence, call Town Hall at 623-933-8286 between April 3rd and April 14th to make an appointment for the pick-up at your home on April 24th. Have a list ready of the items that you have for disposal. Place the items in a box marked "HHW" with

everything clearly labeled in the original container. Make sure to have the items placed out for collection by 6 a.m. on April 24th. Some common household hazardous waste items include: antifreeze and automotive products, including car batteries, oil, filters, flammables, mercury, oil-based paint, pesticides, pool chemicals, propane tanks, and paint.



News You Can Use...

Canine Happenings at the Dog Park!

APRIL ALREADY!

Great time to get outside and enjoy the open areas in Youngtown to walk with friends and family and your 4-legged buddies.

Walk around Caliche Park, South of Connecticut and 113th Avenues, Maricopa Lake approximately a half mile in size, on a 114th and North of Connecticut Avenues or take Alabama Avenue West past the Dog Park area. Stop at our one and only Youngtown Citizens' Dog Park located at 113th and Alabama Avenues. Open every day to all residents and neighbors of our great town.

We all ask that you have your dogs on a leash when you exit your vehicle to the Sally Ports entrance to the small dog area and large dog area. Problems have come up with pets running onto Alabama Avenue or running loose in the basketball or volleyball court areas.

Only a few visitors to the park are not picking up their dog waste. In general, most visitors are doing good and also picking up others dog waste too. Thank you to those folks who help keep our park in top



New sod doing great, deep green and thick

shape! The Town provides mutt mitts as a convenience so that all may pick up after their dogs.

The Citizens' Dog Park Committee is hard at work discussing future amenities, and improvements to the area. At the February meeting a guest artist presented her idea of creating artwork on a dedicated section of the wall. If you are interested in attending the monthly meetings, please do. The Board is open to suggestions and others points of view.

Meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. until noon, in the Town Square Clubhouse/Kitchen area. Upcoming meetings will be: April 15th, May 20th, June 17th. No meetings in July and August. Please contact Margaret at 480-861-1576 for further information.

Donations can be made at the following locations: Koppy's

on Michigan Avenue, Spoiled Rotten Pet Salon at 11246 N. 113th Avenue, Youngtown Library and as always Youngtown Town Hall, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Once again, just a friendly reminder to make sure your pet is wearing a collar and identification tag that is always up-to-date and visible. Be sure to identify a neighbor or friend who could help you and your pets in case of an emergency!

Please pick up after your pets, other dog owners are having to pick up after yours. If you brush your dog in the park, please pick up the fur.

The dog park is a great place for your furry friends to get some exercise and for you to meet some new friends! We hope to see you there!

DOGGIE TIDBITS "WHAT NOSE AROUND COMES AROUND"

Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and the railroads. – Harry S. Truman

CITIZENS' DOG PARK

Hours of Operation

6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

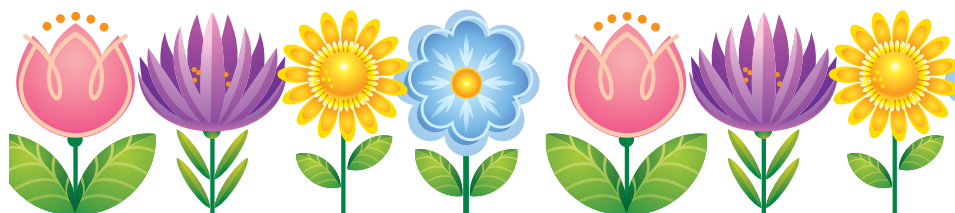
NW Corner of Alabama & 113th Avenues
For Information & Donations 623-974-9756

THE DOG PARK RULES

Park Users & Dog Owners Assume All Risks Related to
Use of Dog Park

Park Hours: 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- Divided Areas: Small Dogs = 25 pounds or less
 - Large Dogs = 26 pounds or more
 - Dogs over 4 months old must have current vaccinations with visible license tag
 - Dogs must be spayed and neutered
 - Maximum of three (3) dogs per person, per visit
 - Owners must maintain control over their dogs
 - An adult must accompany children 13 and under
 - Owners must pick up and dispose of their dog's waste
 - Enter through Sally Port to unleash dog(s)
 - Keep Gates closed
 - No dog treats or food allowed in dog park
 - Aggressive dogs must be removed immediately
 - Sick dogs or dogs in heat are not allowed in the park
 - Entry into the dog park constitutes your voluntary agreement to assume all risks and dangers, including the risk and dangers of injury to persons or dogs that may occur within and around the park. (Dog behavior can be unpredictable and dogs may be aggressive towards other dogs and strangers.)
 - Entry into the dog park constitutes your release and discharge of the Town from all claims, actions, liabilities and damage arising from injuries to persons or dogs, including claims resulting from any actual or claimed negligent acts or omissions, active or passive, by the Town
 - It is against the law to abandon your dog. A.R.S. § 13-2910.
 - You can learn more about the Town's animal regulations at: https://library.municode.com/az/youngtown/codes/code_of_ordinances
- Donations/questions – call 623-933-8286
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office – non-emergency – 602-876-1011



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

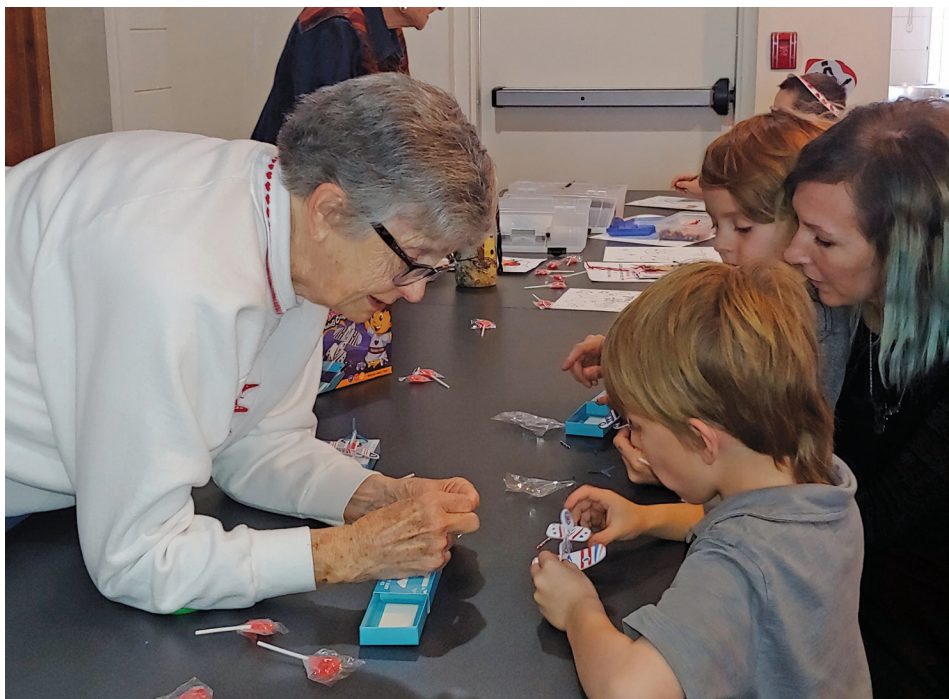
Email your article to Jeanne Blackman: jblackman@youngtownaz.org

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Craft Corner News

On February 11, 2023, the Youngtown Art Commission had their yearly Kid's Craft Day extravaganza. Over 40 Youngtown children attended, and enjoyed several craft stations organized by Betty Trolen and manned by several artists and crafters extraordinaire. Children could participate in making valentine gifts, rock painting, card and puppet making,

stamping, caricatures, and pipe cleaner crafts. Also, a storyteller was present, and read them an amazing tale of a therapy dog named Hudson. It was a wonderful event!



Grand Opening

LGI HOMES – Ridgeview
Tucked away near quiet neighborhoods surrounded by mountain views lies LGI Homes' newest Phoenix community, Ridgeview. The community features a lineup of five spacious floor plans, ranging from three to five bedrooms, giving you all the space, you need for now and later. Residents will enjoy two parks within the community that feature

BBQ grills, shade pavilions, picnic tables and open green spaces. Ridgeview is perfectly positioned near an abundance of major employers, schools, and daily conveniences, giving you quick access to all of life's necessities. Fun and excitement surround the community with incredible parks, the Westgate Entertainment District, sports stadiums and so much more. Join the nation's fastest

growing homebuilder, LGI Homes, and allow one of our highly trained New Home Consultants to walk you through the simplified buying process. Live life to the fullest and start making incredible memories with your family at Ridgeview! Information Center is open 7 days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and they can be reached at (877) 968-3688.



In The Works

April 2023



Marty Mosbrucker
Public Works Manager

Storm Water Pollution Prevention

The Town has several storm drains that

drain storm water into the Agua Fria River. In order to prevent contamination to downstream rivers, the Town has in place a Storm Water Management Plan. Residents need to be aware that it is illegal to dump pollutants down a storm drain. Significant fines can be imposed for dumping pollutants. A pollutant is any solid, liquid, gas or other substance that can alter

the physical or chemical properties of water including, but not limited to fertilizers, solvents, sludge, petroleum and petroleum products, solid waste, garbage, biological materials, radioactive materials, sand, dirt, animal waste, acids and bases. Civil and criminal penalties can be assessed to any person who willfully or negligently violates the laws and regulations

pertaining to storm water drainage. Our goal is to allow only rain water to flow down the storm water drains. Storm water runoff will pick up pollutants and flow these pollutants into the storm drains. Residents and businesses can help to prevent storm water pollution runoff by using fertilizers sparingly and sweeping up driveways and sidewalks. Never dump anything down

a storm drain. Vegetate bare spots in your yard. Compost your yard waste. Follow the label information on pesticides. Take your car to the carwash instead of washing it in the driveway. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil. Pick up after your pet. Remember, only rain down the storm drain. Brochures and informational resources are available on the

Town website, in the library and the lobby in Town Hall for residents to learn more about how to prevent storm water pollution. To report a suspected storm water violation or to report illegal dumping, call Town Hall at 623-933-8286 or go to the Town of Youngtown web-site where you can make an on-line report.

¡La primavera está en plena floración! Sal y disfruta del clima si puedes, porque en poco tiempo llegará el calor del verano. Una cosa con la que definitivamente podemos contar en el desierto de Sonora es el calor del verano. ¿Crees que será un verano caluroso? ¡Definitivamente!

Prevención de la contaminación por aguas pluviales

La ciudad tiene varios

desagües pluviales que drenan las aguas pluviales al Río Agua Fria. Para prevenir la contaminación de los ríos río abajo, la ciudad cuenta con un Programa de Manejo de Aguas Pluviales. Los residentes deben saber que es ilegal tirar contaminantes por un desagüe pluvial. Un contaminante es cualquier sustancia sólida, líquida, gaseosa u otra sustancia que pueda alterar las propiedades

físicas o químicas del agua, incluidos, entre otros, fertilizantes, solventes, lodos, petróleo y productos derivados del petróleo, desechos sólidos, basura, materiales biológicos, materiales radiactivos arena, suciedad, desechos animales, ácidos y bases. Se pueden imponer sanciones civiles y penales a cualquier persona que viole de manera intencionada o negligente las

leyes y reglamentos relacionados con el drenaje de aguas pluviales. Nuestro objetivo es permitir que solo el agua de lluvia fluya por los desagües de aguas pluviales. La escorrentía de aguas pluviales recogerá contaminantes y los hará fluir hacia los desagües pluviales. Los residentes y las empresas pueden ayudar a prevenir la escorrentía de la contaminación de las

aguas pluviales mediante el uso de fertilizantes con moderación y la limpieza de las entradas y las aceras. Nunca arroje nada por un desagüe pluvial. Vegeta los lugares desnudos en tu jardín. Haga abono con los desechos de su jardín. Siga la información de la etiqueta sobre pesticidas. Lleve su auto al lavado de autos en lugar de lavarlo en el camino de entrada. Revise su automóvil en busca de fugas y recicle

el aceite de motor. Recoge los desechos de tu mascota. Recuerde, solo lluvia por el desagüe pluvial.

Hay folletos y recursos informativos disponibles en el sitio web de la ciudad, en la biblioteca y en el vestíbulo del Ayuntamiento para que los residentes aprendan más sobre cómo prevenir la contaminación de las aguas pluviales.



Youngtown Community Fund Medical Lending Center

Spring is almost here and perhaps you are getting ready to complete your postponed surgeries. We are here to lend most anything to assist in your speedy recovery. We loan medical equipment at no charge to residents of Youngtown, El Mirage, Peoria, and Surprise. We have a wide variety of items to fit most every need.

We always accept good



quality equipment to add to our inventory when no longer needed by your loved ones. We accept monetary donations through Pay Pal, Zelle,

our website-info@youngtowncommunityfund.com or drop off cash or checks at our office. We appreciate your donations to help us maintain our inventory and keep assisting the needs of the West Valley Communities. Thank you for your support.

11215-A W Nevada Ave.
623-977-4661



Town of Youngtown Citizens' Academy

The Youngtown Citizens' Academy is a program designed to educate residents and infuse an interest in local issues, present information about important questions facing the Town, provide an avenue for residents to help plan the community's future, and develop a pool of informed residents who would be willing to serve as local leaders on boards, commissions and among their neighbors.

In addition to guest speakers, sessions feature group discussions, activities and other topic-related exercises. Participants who complete the seminar series, including one Town Council meeting, are recognized by the Mayor upon graduation.

The 2023 Academy will begin April 4, 2023. Anyone who lives or works in the Youngtown area is welcome to attend. Most Town committees require residency in the Town limits in order to qualify for appointment. However, there are always opportunities to be engaged. Anyone interested in attending the Citizens' Academy may register with Nicole Smart at 623-933-8286 or nsmart@youngtownaz.org

The four sessions will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Youngtown Town Council Chambers. See schedule below.

April 4, 2023	Orientation, Local Government Community Development/Public Works/Town Engineer
April 11, 2023	Courts/Prosecutor/Code Enforcement/MCSO/Sun City Fire District
April 18, 2023	Town Clerk/Library/Finance/ APS/EPCOR
April 25, 2023	Leadership/Graduation



Learn

HOW YOUR
GOVERNMENT

WORKS

and how you
can get
involved!



**THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ACADEMY.**